

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Nelson J. Sabatini, Secretary

Community Health Administration
Diane L. Matuszak, M.D., M.P.H., Director

Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control Programs
John P. Krick, Ph.D., Director



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 29, 2003

HO#: 03-039

To: Health Officers
Directors of Nursing
Communicable Disease Directors
Environmental Health Directors

From: Jessica Totaro, MPH
Division of Outbreak Investigation

Through: David Blythe, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist (Acting)

Re: Investigation of SARS patient who traveled in Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Department of Health will be issuing an announcement of an investigation into a Canadian traveler with SARS who traveled through Shippensburg, Pennsylvania on May 18. The traveler sought outpatient medical care in Shippensburg on May 19 and then returned to Canada by private automobile on May 20. Shippensburg is located in southcentral Pennsylvania on Interstate 81, approximately 30 miles north of Maryland.

The traveler is currently hospitalized in Canada as a 'probable' SARS case. She is known to have been exposed to a SARS patient in Canada prior to traveling to the U.S. When seen by a physician's office on May 19, she was afebrile and not severely ill.

Though the traveler is not known to have traveled in Maryland, complete travel information is currently being collected by Health Canada. If we learn that the case-patient traveled through Maryland, we will notify you.

If you have questions or concerns about this situation, please call Jessica Totaro at (410) 767-6236.

cc: D. Matuszak
J.M. Joseph
J. Krick
A. Stephenson
R. Stringer